

Application No. 10/735,365

Reply to Office Action

*REMARKS/ARGUMENTS*

The specification and claims have been carefully reviewed in the light of the Office Action to which this amendment is responsive. By this amendment, claims 1-3, 6-11, 14, and 17-20 have been cancelled to reduce issues and the remaining independent claim 12 has been amended to improve its form and to distinguish even more clearly over the prior art.

Claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, and 14-16 have been rejected as being obvious over Lemetyinen et al. ('731) in view of Dean et al. ('507), and alternatively, over Lemetyinen in view of Hunt et al. ('282). Reconsideration of such rejections is respectively requested. Independent claim 12 is directed to a comprehensive spraying system comprising a plurality of spray headers which each have a cleaning brush and control valve operable for cleaning of the spray nozzle inlet orifices. Pursuant to an important aspect of the invention, a control system is provided for controlling respective drive motors of the plurality of spray header devices. The control system includes a microprocessor base control circuit for each motor, a local operation controller for each motor control circuit, and a central operation controller for the plurality of local operation controllers. The microprocessor based control circuit for each motor is programmed is to rotate the brush a predetermined number of turns in one rotary direction in response to a first control signal from the local operation controller for cleaning the inlet apertures and allowing the discharge of liquid and debris removed by the cleaning brush from the inlet apertures to discharge through a drain opening and to rotate the brush shaft a predetermined number of turns in an opposite rotary direction in response to a second control signal from the local operation controller to return the brush and valve member to a position closing the drain opening.

In contrast, Lemetyinen et al. relates to a single brush operated spray header and lacks any disclosure or appreciation of a motor driven means for automatically driving the brush shaft. Dean and Hunt, on the other hand, relate to motors and

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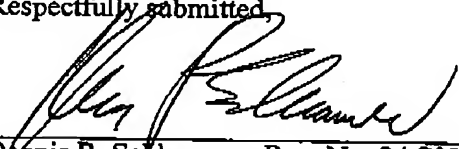
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microprocessor based circuits for specific or mechanical operations that bear no relation to a control system for a spraying system according to the present invention. It is the prior art, of course, that must teach or render obvious the claimed invention. In this instance, the prior art provides no suggestion of either a spraying system or the comprehensive control system as called for in claim 12. Since the remaining claims in issue are all dependent upon claim 12, for similar reasons they are believed to distinguish the prior art. allowable.

From the foregoing, it is believed that the claims as now presented all are directed to features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art so as to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early action to that affect is respectfully requested.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at his direct number (312) 616-5640.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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